

# Valley Women's Voice

OCTOBER 1986 vol. VII, issue IX

## INSIDE . . .

**We're Not Just Crying Wolf . . .** an outline of what it takes for VWV to be produced, with job descriptions and all. We do need help or this may well be the last issue.

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**A Day's Pay for MADRE . . .** local groups work for medical and material aid to Nicaragua.

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## RIGHT TO CHOICE THREATENED IN MASSACHUSETTS

## UNDERGRADS AT UMASS SEEK FUNDING FOR CHILDCARE

### CHILDCARE AT UMASS

Because of one dissenting vote, the SGA coordinating committee voted last month to deny University Child Care a \$11,000 request.

The proposal was defeated by SGA president Bill Bennett. The child care service, which serves the student and staff community of the University, has repeatedly been denied funds by the Undergraduate governing body. On July 16, Child Care suffered another denial of needed funds.

Child Care requested the money to cover expenses which the SGA had failed to consider in its annual budgeting process. Through the budgeting process, the program is allocated money with which to serve the children of undergraduate students. In this year's budgeting process, Child Care was not allowed a hearing in which to present its budget to the budgets committee. Consequently, while the 1987 request was made at \$16,000, the budgeters only reacted to the previous year's budget request, and allocated only \$5,000 to Child Care, leaving \$11,000 unmet.

A \$1,000 request for childhoodships for the children of undergraduates was denied due to an ancient stipulation in the SGA's rules which holds that summer allocations must be approved unanimously. Only one vote was cast against Child Care. That vote was cast by Bill Bennett, President of the SGA. That one vote translates to the denial of child care services to the children of undergraduates. Due to this denial, some students (probably women) may not be able to attend UMass this fall.

Bill Bennett is charged with representing undergraduate students. It is important that he know that women and working class people's livelihoods and educations depend on the availability of affordable child care. If you are a parent, a consumer of child care, an undergraduate, or just concerned with the availability of affordable child care, let Bennett know that he is not representing YOU. You can reach him at his office in 406e Student Union Building, or call him at 545-0341.

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On April 30 the Massachusetts Legislature approved a referendum which would put an anti-choice amendment in the state constitution. In the following article a lawyer from the American Civil Liberties Union outlines possible effects of the amendment, which range from cutting medicaid funding for abortions, to making abortions illegal for all women.

### THE AMENDMENT

Nothing in this Constitution shall prevent the General Court from regulating or prohibiting abortion unless prohibited by the United States Constitution, nor shall anything in this Constitution require public or private funding of abortion, or the provision of services or facilities therefor, beyond that required by the United States Constitution. The provisions of this article shall not apply to abortions required to prevent the death of the mother.

### Overall effect

The amendment (H-5338) is an attempt to write out of the state constitution a woman's right to exercise reproductive choice. It would overrule a series of Supreme Judicial Court decisions which, up to the present, have protected a woman's private decision whether to carry a pregnancy to term or to have an abortion. It would authorize the state to prohibit all private and public funding of abortions. It would turn our state constitution from a safeguard of a woman's right to choose into a carte blanche for the legislature to restrict or prohibit women's reproductive rights, subject only to the limits of federal court decisions. The intervening protection of our state constitution would be gone.

### Power to prohibit abortion

The amendment gives the General Court the power to ban abortion entirely. Although under present U.S. Supreme Court decisions, such a ban would violate the federal constitution, the effect of the prohibition language is to empower the General Court to implement immediately any conceivable restriction or prohibition on a woman's reproductive rights in the event that federal law is modified. It removes any possibility of state constitutional challenge to legislation prohibiting abortion and invites state legislation that would test the

continuing adherence of the federal courts to the principles of Roe vs. Wade. If the federal courts do waiver in their commitment to Roe (or if it is overturned by federal constitutional amendment), Massachusetts could well become the first state to outlaw abortion completely and to impose any penalties that a particular legislature chose to punish women who sought to terminate their pregnancies or doctors who performed abortion.

### Power to regulate abortion

The regulation power granted by the amendment is an invitation to the General Court to invent any sort of new restriction, obstacle, procedure, or penalty concerning provision of abortion services in the hope that the United States Supreme Court would eventually uphold it. Such restrictions would remain in effect unless and until challenged and declared unlawful. Massachusetts could look forward to numerous assaults on clinics and other providers of abortion services, as well as on pregnant women.

### Funding

The amendment would permit the general court to eliminate any public or private funding of abortion services, no matter how compelling the medical necessity (short of "preventing the death of the mother"). Thus, it would not only overrule the state Supreme Judicial Court decision in Moe Vs. Secretary of Administration and Finance, prohibiting the state from refusing to pay for medically necessary abortions for Medicaid-eligible women, but it would also allow the legislature to prohibit state employees from obtaining health insurance coverage, and even to ban private health insurance. Every woman of childbearing age in the Commonwealth would be affected.

### Provision of Services and Facilities

The final section of the proposed amendment, allowing the General Court to prohibit "the provision of services or facilities" for abortion, does not seem to add anything to the earlier grant of power to prohibit or regulate abortion itself. It is more specific in that it permits the

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## CREDITS

Many women  
donated a few  
hours of time to  
this issue.\*  
Among them are:  
Monika Giacoppo,  
Dana Casinelli,  
Carla Graham,  
Lisa Trocki,  
Kathy Swanze,  
Michelle Aubin,  
Leary Kinch, Sue  
Gilman, Chris  
Fisher, Lisa Bohne,  
Rebecca Thatcher,  
and others.  
\*Special thanks  
to Katja Hahn  
D'Errico for her  
time, effort, patience,  
and good advice.

### SUBMISSIONS WELCOME!

Your contribution to the VWV is greatly appreciated. We ask that a phone # and name be enclosed with all material for editing purposes. If you wish to remain anonymous, please indicate this when submitting items.

We request that all announcements and calendar items be submitted in writing.

**The Valley Women's Voice would like to hear from all women. With this in mind, the VWV accepts for the calendar and announcements sections items up to five lines in length about events and topics of interest to women. Announcements for non-profit organizations will be given preference and additional space when it is available. In the cases of profit-making organizations, dollar amounts of fees will not be listed. See the display and classified advertising rates for more information.**

All letters to the editor present the views of the author only. No statement in any letter to the editor represents any official position of the Valley Women's Voice, the Student Government Association, administration or trustees of UMass, or the State Board of Regents.

## LETTERS

Dear VWV,

I am writing to bring to your attention a number of errors which were printed in the article "Seeking Changes: Pornography in Hadley" (May 1986). For the benefit of your readers and in the interest of fair and accurate journalism, I trust you will print the following corrections and observations.

First of all, you named Gary Newell as the Hadley Card Gallery's store manager. In fact, I have been the store manager there since it opened last August. Mr. Newell is our West Hartford based supervisor.

Second, you made reference in the article to cards which we carry as depicting "sexually violent" images. In my opinion, there are no such cards in our store. When our store first opened, we did for a short time carry a line of cards which depicted silhouette stick figures (like the ones on pedestrian crossing signs) engaged in activities which most people would agree were violent acts, i.e. a figure shooting another figure with a gun, a figure hanging itself, and a figure pointing a knife at another figure. We decided, without any pressure from the public or any organization, to voluntarily remove these cards from the store because we felt their violent images were inappropriate. We do carry cards which depict nudity and sexually suggestive or erotic images, but none of these depict sexual images in a manner which I would consider violent. Also, our most sexually explicit cards are kept in a fenced-off adult section of the store to which no one under 18 is permitted to enter—not even Card Gallery employees who are under age.

Third, you stated that Mr. Newell "evaded" the efforts of the Educator/Advocate Program to meet with him. In fact, I personally know of two separate

occasions when Mr. Newell made definite appointments to meet with the Educator/Advocates, drove up from West Hartford specifically to meet with them, and the Educator/Advocates simply failed to show.

The Educator/Advocates may find our sexually explicit cards offensive, but the vast majority of our customers (most of whom, by the way, are women), find them to be quite enjoyable. In fact, I believe most people consider sex to be a very enjoyable part of our human existence and do not automatically equate sex with violence as the Educator/Advocates seem to be doing here. It's interesting to note that some of the sexually explicit cards which the Educator/Advocates specifically described as violent were cards which depict lovers engaged in playful bondage games. Though members of the Educator/Advocates may not agree with this practice, there are millions of couples who consider such sexual play a mutually satisfying part of their sex life—as their personal choice of sexual orientation. I wonder what the Educator/Advocates' reaction would be if some other local organization began a campaign to stamp out all literature and images related to Lesbianism and homosexuality. If the Educator/Advocates would only take the time to think this through, they would realize that by taking this stand they are actually endangering their own sexual, political, and religious freedoms.

Lastly, I would like to say that as the manager of a gift store, I see a lot of merchandise which personally I find to be in poor taste and on occasion even offensive. Pictures of *The Last Supper* painted on shellacked tree trunks and sympathy cards with a gaudy picture of the Pearly Gates on the front and a cheap rhyme inside are two good examples of items which, as a practicing Christian, I find tasteless and offensive.

Nevertheless, I recognize the fact that some people genuinely enjoy such items and I realize that I have no right to impose my personal taste on them.

There are many organizations in this country such as Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority which share this same type of short-sighted thinking. If they had their way, they would actually liquidate their own constitutional rights to freedom of speech and the separation of church and state and replace them with a state legislated morality. The Educator/Advocates should realize that by trying to eliminate cards from the Hadley Card Gallery simply because they don't suit their personal taste, they are engaging in the same type of fascist-state mentality which condones book-burning and the imprisonment of individuals because of their political beliefs—a mentality which someday could turn on them and they themselves could fall victim to. My hope is that the Educator/Advocates will realize the self-destructive nature of their position and will in the future focus their energies more towards the liberation of minds rather than trying to enslave them.

Sincerely,  
Darlene Montemagni



Letters → continued page 4

### Display and Classified Ad Rates

CAMERA READY	CONTRACT DISCOUNT
Full Page ... \$448.00	3 Issues ... 5%
Half Page ... \$240.00	6 Issues ... 8%
Quarter Page	9 Issues ... 12%
(4" x 4") ... \$128.00	
Eighth Page	
(2" x 4") ... \$64.00	ADDITIONAL CHARGES
Sixteenth Page	Typesetting/Layout add \$12
(1" x 4") ... \$32.00	per col. in.
Thirty-second Page	Graphic Artwork add \$2 per
(1" x 2") ... \$16.00	col. in.
Business Card ... \$18.00	Camera Work add \$5 per col.
	in.

Payment is due within seven days of publication. An additional 10% pre-payment discount may be subtracted from your cost if payment is received before the 27th of the month prior to publication. In lieu of "tear sheets" all advertisers will receive a complimentary copy of the paper. All changes in ad copy must be received by the 20th of the month prior to publication, unless other arrangements are made with the ad representative. One column is 3 & 1/4 inches wide.

### SUBSCRIBE!

9 issues for \$8

Yes! I want to subscribe to the VWV! Please send me eight copies. Enclosed with this coupon is the payment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

The Valley Women's Voice was born in 1979 after feminist women, angered by the UMass student newspaper's refusal to give adequate coverage to women's news, occupied the offices of the *Daily Collegian*.

Since that early spring, the Voice has gone through changes of personnel, location and format. It is now a 16-page monthly with a distribution of 8,000 and a mailing list of 220 subscribers and exchange publications. With an office at Everywoman's Center on the UMass campus, and status as a Recognized Student Organization, the Valley Women's Voice is a small business staffed by students and community women.

A healthy share of advertisers help keep the paper financially afloat, and supplies, advice and technical assistance are available through the University. Readers, contributors, and volunteers support the paper, which circulates between Amherst, Northampton and Springfield. Outlying towns and regions receive the Voice via the U.S. Mail and willing commuters.



## NOW SUES

The National Organization for Women (NOW) has filed a lawsuit against three prominent anti-abortion activists to stop what it calls "a reign of terror" against abortion clinics. The three defendants named in the suit are Joe Scheidler of Chicago; Joan Andrews of Newark, Delaware; and John Patrick Ryan of St. Louis. Also named are Scheidler's Pro-Life Action League and Ryan's Pro-Life League.

"These fanatics have instituted a reign of terror against women nationwide," NOW president Eleanor Smeal said. "They have used illegal violent tactics to close clinics, including smashing medical equipment, invading clinics and intimidating patients and medical staff...There is clearly a nationwide conspiracy, which the federal government has refused to treat as such."

The National Abortion Federation counted forty-five acts of violence against abortion clinics in 1982, fifty-four in 1983, 173 in 1984, and 224 in 1985. NOW's announcement of its lawsuit came just hours after a pipe bomb exploded at an abortion clinic in Wichita, Kansas. No one was hurt in the blast, which caused \$60,000 in damage to the Family Medical Center; no one has claimed responsibility. (Boston Globe/New York Times)

## PROSTITUTES

The Massachusetts Appeals Court has upheld dismissal of prostitution charges against a woman who accused Brockton police of discriminatory law enforcement in not arresting male customers. The Appeals Court affirmed a district court decision in favor of the unidentified woman, who said that when she was arrested in 1985 no male was arrested with her, and that as a practice Brockton police arrest females but not males.

In a decision written by Justice R. Ammi Cutter, the Court said a judge can dismiss criminal complaints when there is proof of intentional discrimination between female prostitutes and their male customers. (Boston Globe)

## POVERTY

The Women's Studies Program of UMass/Boston has just announced the release of "Women and Poverty in Massachusetts: An Urgent Agenda," a report from the perspectives of low-income women available without charge (see below). "Women and Poverty" is an outgrowth of the conference of the same name held at UMass/Boston in 1984, and includes recommendations for state and national policy changes in welfare, health care, housing, childcare, and education.

The report becomes available at a time when the Massachusetts Women's Campaign for Social Justice is attempting to persuade the governor and state legislature to use some of the Commonwealth's budget surplus to raise AFDC payments at least "up to poverty." "Women and Poverty" can be used both for advocacy and in the classrooms, and may be combined with two other educational resources created in connection with the '84 conference: "We need a Change," a pamphlet profiling five low-income activist women, and "Situation Serious," a half-hour videotape of the meeting co-produced with the Women's Video Collective. For more information, contact: Women's Studies Program, Wheatley Building, Harbor Campus, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA 02125. (Sojourner)

## OMB SQUASHES VDT STUDY

Washington, D.C.--The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on "scientific grounds," had decided the federal government should not undertake a study to find out if video display terminals (VDTs) cause abnormal pregnancy.

An estimated 10 million U.S. workers sit before VDT screens daily to perform data entry and secretarial tasks, to process travel information and insurance claims, or to retrieve and analyze data. Numerous stresses and muscular strains have been linked to constant VDT work, but the most serious is possible abnormalities in the pregnancies of VDT operators. Twelve clusters of abnormal pregnancies have been

found in offices with intense VDT use.

In the U.S., 9 to 5 and SEIU are working with doctors at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York on a study of miscarriages among VDT users. Dr. Irving Selikoff is directing the research, joined by Dr. Philip Landrigan, who had worked for NIOSH on VDT investigations. 9 to 5 and SEIU will contact thousands of VDT operators over a one year period to answer the Mt. Sinai questionnaires.

Japan has commissioned a three-year epidemiological study of VDTs and office automation after the Japanese General Council of Trade Unions found that over one third of the pregnant women using VDTs had problems during preg-

nancy or delivery.

Sweden's National Insurance Administration found that the percentage of its workers with seriously malformed children was almost double the national rate. The government of Sweden plans to purchase 8000 VDTs in the next few years and has called for bids from manufacturers for machines without electric static fields and with substantially reduced low frequency electromagnetic fields. The manufacturers have complied. In opening the VDT conference, Swedish minister of Labor Anna-Greta Leijon said, "There is no reason for burdening the occupational environment with factors which can be eliminated. (Off Our Backs)

## WOMEN'S LAND OPENED

Huntington, Vt.--HOWL...if you want to "Help Open Women's Land."

Nearly 100 women did just that at the full moon, grand opening of HOWL, 195 acres of "Open Women's Land," on June 21. The opening signifies a milestone in the work of over twenty women who are attempting to create a collective women's community in this rural town outside of Burlington.

Twenty-one women make up the core of HOWL. Most of the women are Lesbians and approximately half come from workingclass backgrounds. There is one Black woman, a deaf woman, and a number of Jewish women. The group hopes HOWL can be a safe place for all women, but they realize differences must be seriously addressed. "We're not euphoric, thinking we all want the same thing," said Wittenberg.

"We hope to see HOWL become one of those few places where we can continue to train, to revise, to create home, family, community," states a HOWL letter written by Wittenberg and Yiota Ahlades.

In a brainstorming session of visions for the land, HOWL members dreamed of a birthing center, a feminist peace institute, a pure water selling or trading business, a non-electric women's band and a bathtub in the woods. Out of this session, one decision was made: that a collective space would be built first as a way to "consolidate the group through the practical experience of working together."

Eventually, said Wittenberg, individuals may build their own permanent shelters. Care will be taken, she said, not to overburden the land with too many women. Two tepees and an old barn are the only current standing structures.

HOWL also wants to make space available for camping. They are asking for a \$5 per night camping fee from women who can afford it to go toward operating expenses.

HOWL is also planning some weekend events which might include an instrument making weekend and a weekend to learn about herbs. Wittenberg said there might be a small fee for participating in these events, but they are not for the purpose of generating money.

HOWL is open to new members. Meetings are once a month and any woman can attend. Women wanting to contact HOWL for more information or to make a donation can write:

HOWL Project  
C/O Commonwoman  
P.O. Box 242  
Winooski, Vt. 05404

## SODOMY

Washington, D.C.--The Supreme Court, by a 5-4 vote, held in Bowers vs. Hardich that the fundamental constitutional right to privacy and intimate association does not extend to lesbian and gay sexual activity. In a decision written by Justice Byron White, the Court upheld a Georgia law which declares, "any sexual act involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another" to be a felony punishable by up to twenty years imprisonment.

In an impassioned defense joined by three other justices, Justice Harry Blackman declared that "depriving individuals of the right to choose for themselves poses a far greater threat to values most deeply rooted in our Nation's history than tolerance of non-conformity could ever do...The court today betrays those values."

Blackman read major portions of the dissent from the bench, an unusual move which indicates the depth of divisions within the court over this case.

"It's a devastating setback, but it's not the end of the ballgame," Abby Rubinfeld, legal director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York City told GCN "Rubinfeld pointed out that the decision gave considerable deference to the rights of state legislatures to pass or repeal sodomy laws. Such laws, banning varying forms of sexual activity, remain on the books in twenty-four states, including Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia." Both Lambda and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) will target these laws for challenge.

(Gay Community News)

## GREENHAM WOMEN

Since the start of this year, the women at the peace camp outside the U.S. Air Force's cruise missile base in Greenham Common, England, have endured greater harassment than ever before--and their numbers are growing fewer, according to a report from Gwyn Kirk of the camp's U.S. support group.

Evictions are now continuing at the "normal" rate of several a week, but women at the camp are now concerned that they are being "zapped"--subjected to microwaves or ultrasound from the base. The effects, they believe, include drowsiness, pressure in the ears, mild headaches, bleeding, depression, irritability, aggressiveness, lack of confidence and concentration, a sense of loneliness, panic in non-panic situations, loss of short-term memory, temporary paralysis and burning skin. The women say that these symptoms are particularly noticeable at the gate closest to the missile silos, during large demonstrations, and when convoys enter or leave the base, and they are trying to secure resources to prove the phenomenon.

The twenty or so women now at the base are in urgent need of letters of support, money (for general expenses and to rent equipment to test for microwave and ultrasound beams), and additional campers; they may be contacted at Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp  
USAF Greenham Common  
Newbury, Berkshire, U.K.

Greenham Women Against  
Cruise Missiles  
339 Lafayette Street  
New York, N.Y. 10012

## HILL RELEASED

Cambridge--Community activist Carol Hill was recently released from prison after serving six months for refusing to testify at a Grand Jury.

Grand-jury investigations are secret proceedings in which neither the witness nor the public knows what is under investigation. Witnesses are not told what the questioning will be about and there is no restriction on what can be asked.

But Hill believes Federal prosecutors are seeking information on the Ohio Seven, a group of people accused of a series of politically motivated bombings of companies with holdings in South Africa, and are trying to link other people to the group. One of those is Christopher King, who is in a Massachusetts prison for gun possession; Hill had volunteered as a paralegal for King's attorney, William Kunstler. Other supporters of King were subpoenaed by the same grand jury.

Hill's case is one illustration of a frightening trend, according to some attorneys and political activists--frightening because of the unchecked power of prosecutors to jail people without trial, and "trend" because causes like Hill's are becoming more and more common.

Left-wing political activists are increasingly the target of grand-jury investigations, according to Hill's lawyer, Jill Elijah.

"They've been going after people involved in the black liberation movement, the Puerto Rican independence movement." Elijah reports that more than a hundred people have been jailed since 1980 for refusing to testify. (The Progressive)



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It is with deep sorrow and great anger that we announce that there will be no New England Women's Musical Retreat on Labor Day weekend, 1986.

On May 18, when we arrived at Ten Mile River Scout Camp for an on-site meeting, the Boy Scouts presented us with the following conditions for rental of the land:

- 1) that the word "lesbian" be removed from all printed materials;
- 2) that the chapels not be used by us; and
- 3) that a 25% increase be paid for Scout insurance in addition to a 5% increase already contracted for.

We believe that the first two conditions were the direct result of the article titled, "1,000 Lesbians Gather for Weekend Workshop," which appeared on Sept. 3, 1985, in the *Times Herald Record* of Middletown, N.Y. We, the ten member planning committee, reached a unanimous decision that we could not comply with the first condition which is directly counter to the purpose and philosophy of NEWMR. We pointed out to the camp director that NEWMR is an event open to all women and challenged their blatantly discriminatory policy. He was not willing to make any changes.

Having been through three site searches in the last five years, we knew it would be virtually impossible to find another site at this late date. We decided instead, to commit ourselves to a vision of NEWMR '87. NEWMR has always been the creation of hundreds of women; we ask you now for your continued support and input. Here is what you can do:

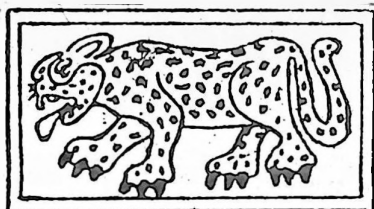
- 1) Please contribute as generously as you can. We need money for expenses already incurred during the last five months of approximately \$5,000.
- 2) Work with us with or hold your own fund-raising event in your community.
- 3) Help us with a land search for NEWMR '87. We need at least 250 acres with both open land and privacy. Ideally, we would like future NEWMR's to be held on woman-owned land.

Please send money, comments or questions to: NEWMR, P.O. box 217, New Haven, CT 06513. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want a response. You can also leave a message on the NEWMR phone: (203) 529-6840; return calls will need to be collect.

During this difficult and hopeful year, we will be relying on your support in sisterhood. As Yania Pearson said from the night stage during NEWMR '84's opening ritual, "Feminism is a belief in abundance; there is enough to go around. In almost every situation, we get back more than we put out, whether that is love, energy or money."

In sistersong,

The NEWMR Planners



Dear VWV,

The enclosed letter was sent to me by a friend who is presently in Esteli, Nicaragua. She reports to me that it is already evident how the \$100 Million allocated by our government to the Contras will be used. The increase in military action against the Sandinista government has been immediately apparent, a bomb went off in the northern barrio, of Esteli on August 14.

#### TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

We the undersigned, United States citizens, denounce the vote taken by the United States Senate on August 13, to give \$100 million in aid to the contras who are engaged in a war of terrorism against the people of Nicaragua and against democratically elected and popularly supported government.

This bill was passed in disregard of international law and contrary to repeated expressions of disapproval by the U.S. public. We are here in Nicaragua as members of that public. Should any of us be endangered or killed by the U.S. supported contras, we would consider that to be an act of war by the U.S. government against its own people.

In addition, we denounce any attempt on the part of the U.S. government to use our presence here as an excuse to invade Nicaragua as it has done in such places as Grenada and on other occasions in Nicaragua itself.

U.S. citizens residing in Esteli,

Region I

Las Segovias, Nicaragua Libre

Kathleen Lacey, MA  
Susan Wetherell, MA  
Lina Avidan, CA.  
Patty Lee Parmelee, NY  
Bruce Marks, Boston Mass.  
JEFFREY ELKNER, Arlington, VA

George Meyer, Birmingham, AL  
Kathleen Denny Cincinnati, OH  
Susan Myster Water Town, Md  
Ellen Scott, Boston, MA  
Lee Fick, Winthrop, MA  
Craig S. Krone, Livonia, MI  
Sue Striar, Ann Arbor, MI  
Michele Lee, Pittsburgh, PA

Garry Walter Madison, WI  
Oscar Hernandez, Somerville, MA  
Anibal Whelan, Jamaica Plain, MA  
Lauren Berly, Cambridge, Mass  
John Watkins, Mississippi  
J. Andy Smith, Valley Forge, PA

Kevin Murray, Jamaica Plain, Mass.  
Elizabeth C. Horton, VA.  
Elison Brad, Newton, MA  
Paul D. Atwood, Boston, MA  
Yania K Henne, Austin, Texas  
Christina Perle, Santa Monica, CA  
Jim C. Sullivan, Seattle, WA

Margaret Bayler, Detroit, Mi.  
Jesse Austin, Seattle, WA

Charles Hayes, Louisiana  
Al T. Taylor, California

Reg Dean, California  
Kim Kempf, Georgia  
Reginald Ramsey, Georgia  
Frank Tierra, Chico, CA

Barbara Watters, Mississippi  
Meredith Williams, Oakland, CA

Carol A. Pepper, Williamsstown, Mass.  
Carl J. Pepper, Williamsstown, Mass.

Kelley Stern, Washington, D.C.

## MADRE: WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE IN NICARAGUA

### All of Us, Woman, Child, Man

A small group of Franklin County activists have helped recently to offset the war wounds inflicted by the U.S. government-backed murderers, known as contras, upon the people of Nicaragua. The contras seek to undermine and overthrow the elected government of Nicaragua.

In less than one month, members of the Franklin County Committee on Central America (FCCA), the Five Rivers Organizing Group, and the Franklin County Pledge of Resistance raised close to \$4,500 in support for MADRE, an international organization of women -- and men -- which aided in the development of Nicaragua's first women's hospital, Bertha Calderon, in Managua.

"What is great about the MADRE campaign is that it has been for everybody," said Sarah Kembel of FCCA. "We have broadened the base of support for Nicaragua. This is important in light of the recent contra aid vote."

On June 25 Congress approved President Reagan's request for \$100 million in overt military aid to the contras. And though the Reagan administration denies it as "Sandinista propaganda" the contras make targets of health care facilities and health workers throughout Nicaragua.

In June of 1983, a small delegation of women from the United States met with the Mothers of Heroes and Martyrs in Nicaragua. This is what the Nicaraguan women asked of the American women: Please, when you return to your country, organize the women to stop Reagan. "Please use your strength to stop the killing of our children."

"We came back to the U.S. with a tremendous responsibility," said Vivian Stromber, a director of MADRE's executive committee. "We first pulled together women from across the country, all kinds of women, with a commitment to forge a national network to stop United States intervention in Central America and the Caribbean. And so MADRE was formed. There are thousands of groups like the Franklin County group all across the U.S."



While the U.S. celebrates its 210th year of independence, the Nicaraguans look forward to the eighth year of their young revolution. Five of whose years have been spent in an undeclared war with the U.S. When the Sandinistas triumphed over Somoza and his terroristic National Guard on July 19, 1979, an already existing women's organization in Nicaragua formed a mass organization. All women now join in the work of rebuilding their country and restructuring their government.

AMNLAE, the Association of Nicaraguan Women Luisa Amanda Espinoza, named after the first woman Sandinista combatant to die fighting the Somoza dictatorship, works to ensure women's equality with men throughout Nicaraguan society. Improving health care and the availability of it to all Nicaraguans became one of the major goals of the revolution.

MADRE works with and through AMNLAE, and its health care campaign for women and children is a top priority. Money is needed for a second women's hospital in Matagalpa and a rural clinic on the Atlantic coast to serve the indigenous Miskito Indian women and children.

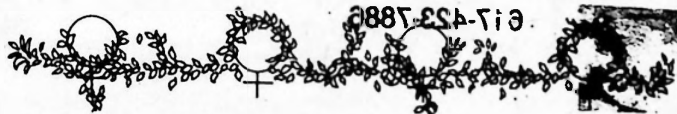
MADRE's other campaigns include a milk and cereal campaign, a day care twinning project, and the Friendship Work Exchange Brigade, a program where U.S. mid-wives work with other health professionals in Nicaragua.

Our starry-eyed Congress members give Reagan what he wants all too often (with the exception of the Massachusetts delegation in this case.) MADRE will step up its Quest for Peace campaign, a challenge to Congress' contra aid approval. "We are very worried about the people who will be dying as a result of this war," said Joanne Biaggi, a staff member in MADRE's New York office. "Each dollar given the contras makes life more difficult for the people of Nicaragua. We will try to match these dollars with dollars for peace."

A plaque hanging in Bertha Calderon Women's Hospital thanks the people of Franklin County and 39 other groups and individuals who contributed to the health care campaign for Nicaragua. It reads: "In recognition of general support for Bertha Calderon, AMNLAE, MADRE. Friendship between women in the United States and women in Nicaragua. Por la Paz." For peace.

For more information contact the Franklin County Committee on Central America, 82 Conway St., Greenfield, 863-4772, or MADRE, 853 Broadway, Room 301, New York, NY 10003. Contributions are tax deductible.

Article by Kasey Keith





# LESBIAN AND CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE PROVIDES FORUM FOR SOLUTIONS AND SUPPORT

Going to the Lesbians and Children's conference meant missing the Northampton Gay Pride March for the second year in a row, but I still jumped at the chance. A 'first' was happening in our community, again. This event was to be yet another birth in yet another realm of our culture: the first Lesbian and Children's conference held in Massachusetts. The planning committee of LCC, which consists of the Lesbians Choosing Children network in the Boston area and the Feminist Alliance of Simmons College, had begun thinking about the possibility of having such a conference last December. The egg was fertilized and growing: birthday, May 3, 1986.

All New England states were represented with women coming from California, New Jersey and Virginia as well. New mothers, yet-to-be mothers, expectant mothers, thinking-about-it women, partners, Lesbians who had their children in marriages and grandmothers numbered among the more than 400 women who filled the auditorium by ten.

I arrived outside the main entrance of Simmons a bit before nine in the morning to mingle with seven to ten other women, obviously looking for the same conference. Some had coffee cups and other such supplies in boxes, others talked about being facilitators at this event. All of us were wondering just exactly where it was going to happen and how many people were going to be here. The front door was locked and we were beginning to worry when a woman drove up and gave us instructions about where to go and how to get around to the right building. We all began trudging. Some helped to carry supplies around two buildings, through a parking lot and, lo and behold, a sign denoted the building where women were beginning to register at the main desk.

After getting my press packet and instructions about what was okay and not okay to do (no photographs or names without express permission, no straight press), I began looking through my conference workshop itinerary. There were forty workshops to choose from, choosing just a few was not easy.

The conference provided breakfast for participants, enabling women to gather and begin meeting one another and talking before opening remarks. I approached a few women to ask why they had decided to come. Georgia felt there were many interesting topics being presented and that she might want a child some day. She wanted to know options, legal issues, and was glad there was a space provided where women could speak openly and safely. Mary, 47, is the mother of a ten year old boy and 13 year old girl. She feels isolated, as though the coming out process has been a slow one for her and she needs help and support with it. She lives in the suburbs, is returning to school, and has just ended a relationship with a woman. She wants to talk with other Lesbian mothers. Jean is 34, has a daughter, 15, and two sons, 12 and 14. She has been out to her children for three years. She came for information and the workshops dealing with mothers and sons.

We had gathered because of lack of information about ourselves, within our own circles and in the world at large. There are new definitions needed for us as women choosing children. We are our own family and many are isolated from our own biological families. We came together to validate ourselves as co-parents, foster parents, biological mothers, grandmothers, and children.

In her opening remarks, Cindi Rizzo, workshop organizer and Boston area attorney, spoke about how long overdue it is for women who choose children and for those who do not, to have a place to dialogue with one another and bridge the fear and mistrust in our own community. "Some fear that our growing involvement with kids will somehow de-politicise us and that the choice to raise a child is a personal solution that is being made in the larger context of the rightward shift in this country. Others feel that raising children can't help but politicize us, as many of us must begin to deal with issues of childcare, education, child safety and the economics of either single motherhood or co-parenting arrangements that have little or no legal recognition."

We were sharing the Simmons campus facilities with at least two other conferences for the day, one on economics and the other for college alumni. Our presence was making an impact. "Each of these families are political since, as outsiders in this society, we must continually assert the fact that *we are here* and we will follow our feelings and visions, holding on to what we need and throwing out the rest," stated Rizzo. "As we teach children, we are changing the world, passing on our feminist, anti-racist, class conscious, and anti-war-values. We can point to the fact that our day to day lives and struggles are political. We do not have to raise children in a vacuum. We must deal with a world that pays us less, thinks of us as 'the other' (especially if we are not white or middle class), and often despises our very existence. This is our reality as Lesbians generally, and especially as Lesbians with children."

A nine year old girl got up to address the conference and thanked us for the day, saying she was glad her mother is a Lesbian and glad she was here for the day to share it with us.

The array of workshops ranged from choosing gender, alternative insemination, and custody rights, to coming out to parents and children, coparenting, parenting alone, and being lesbian grandmothers in a straight culture. Others looked at pregnancy issues, mothers of sons, differently abled women choosing children, and childcare issues.

A workshop for children (besides day long daycare provisions) was facilitated by two lesbian teachers. They explored children's feelings about their families and their mothers' choice of lifestyle, as well as their responses to the teachers' being "out" to a group of children in a classroom setting. I approached the teachers before the workshop and asked if they would ask the children if they'd mind a reporter stopping in near the end to ask them some questions. When I checked back in, all said this was okay with them as long as their names were not used.

*continued page 13*



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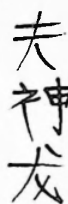
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# AIDS — IT IS A LESBIAN CONCERN

AIDS is a Lesbian concern because we're losing the men who can be our brothers and supporters and friends.

AIDS is a Lesbian concern because seventeen years ago Gay men and Lesbians stood together and fought back at Stonewall, beginning the Gay Liberation Movement unified against unjust treatment. Because Gay men and Lesbians are indispensable to each other still in the face of vicious homophobia which does not discriminate by sex. Because Gay men and Lesbians would be persecuted alike in the backlash to AIDS by cancerous maggots like Paul Cameron who used a state university to call for the castration of Gay men, the identification and mutilation of Lesbians and the quarantine of all Gay people.

AIDS is a Lesbian concern because we must see the real epidemic now is an epidemic of ignorance and fear. Because we could all possibly lose the few civil rights we have gained, with forced AIDS testing by employers, government and prison systems, with refusal of protection by insurance companies, with government list-keeping of the names of Gay people with AIDS and their sex partners. Such lists already are kept by law in Minnesota, Idaho, South Carolina and Wisconsin. The government is clearly focused on record-keeping and tracking individuals, not on finding a cure for AIDS.

AIDS is a lesbian concern because the crisis of AIDS can make or break our movement. We can make the fight against AIDS a major mobilizing force for all Gay people. Or, we can do nothing, and be further deprived of our dignity, our basic human and civil rights, our very lives. Without the Gay Movement there is no Lesbian movement. Without the Lesbian movement, there is no movement for Gays.

AIDS is a Lesbian concern because there are 20,000 Americans with AIDS in the U.S. right now and another 200,000 with AIDS-related complex. AIDS is a Lesbian concern because an estimated seven per cent of that total are women and that is a conservative figure and that figure is rising. Conservative because women, and especially Lesbians, are invisible in this government's health statistics. Because women, particularly women of color who are the greater percentage of women with AIDS, are often too economically disadvantaged to seek help for AIDS. Because women don't trust government AIDS projects enough to present themselves for testing. Because women are too often silent about sex and sexually transmitted disease.

AIDS is a Lesbian concern because health care specifically for the needs of Lesbians is a right we have done without for too long.

AIDS is a Lesbian concern because one more person is diagnosed with AIDS every day in Massachusetts alone and 15 to 20 more are diagnosed with AIDS in the rest of the country. Everyday, day in and day out, more Gay and Lesbian lives are threatened or taken by AIDS. AIDS is a Lesbian concern because only 25 million dollars has been recently proposed by Senator Edward Kennedy for AIDS research and Hospice care. He's asking only \$25 million to stop a killer disease which has yet no known cure. \$25 million from a government which spends hundreds of billions on death...not life...in aid to the Contras, support for racist apartheid, nuclear testing, war games and international violations, and spaceships that explode in the air.

AIDS is a Lesbian concern because some Lesbians sometimes do sleep with Gay or Bisexual or heterosexual men. Because some Lesbians sometimes

do sleep with Bisexual women or Lesbians at risk for AIDS because they occasionally sleep with men. AIDS is a Lesbian concern because some of us do like sex in non-traditional ways and our preferences require special safety in the face of AIDS. AIDS is a Lesbian concern because some Lesbians do bear children by artificial insemination from Gay, Bisexual or heterosexual men. Because women can pass AIDS on to our children in utero and through breastfeeding. AIDS is a Lesbian concern because some Lesbians do use drugs and take them intravenously. Because some Lesbians do sometimes prostitute or make love with high-risk women.

It is time we face the realities in our Lesbian lives. We can no longer afford to be silent about who we love or what we do in bed, ashamed about what sexually transmitted disease we have or our partner has, or isolated in how we decide to find sperm donors to help us conceive our children. AIDS is a Lesbian concern and talking openly to each other now is more a matter of survival than ever before.

AIDS is a Lesbian concern and Lesbians should not be pressured by the tone of the homophobic backlash around us into blaming the victim. Blame is a useless thing and no one deserves AIDS. We all have a right to pleasurable, powerful and safe sex. The way we want it, the ways we choose it. It is our lifeforce and a good and precious thing. We are a passionate people. Lesbians, rather, must learn about AIDS and know the safe sex guidelines and protective measures against AIDS. At the New Alexandria Lesbian Library we are gathering materials on AIDS and these include information specifically on Lesbians and AIDS.

*continued page 13*

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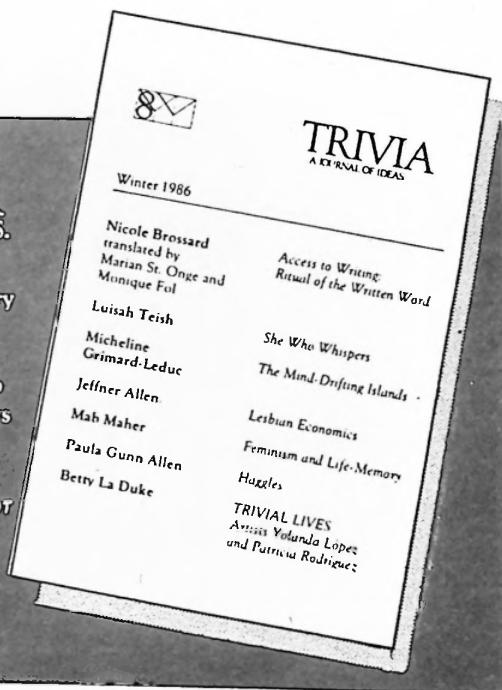
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One night last May I was eating mushroom pizza with extra cheese at Joe's Cafe, minding my own business, when a woman walked by with the words, "Red Scare" emblazoned across her T-shirt. Ha, I chuckled to myself, I like that shirt. Then another woman walked by sporting the same logo, and moments later, another. Being the quick-witted individual that I am, I soon realized that this was simply not the result of some convoluted networking of a few lefty Valley politicians. In fact, these people were looking suspiciously like a team of sorts, though other indications of a uniform were scarce. That was my first encounter with The Women's Softball League of Western Massachusetts, but they have been a part of the Valley since 1976, and their popularity and visibility has grown every year.

This is not your everyday softball league. You will not find their personal statistics, team records, or league standings in the local paper. Remember everything they told you in grammar school about it not being important if you win or lose, blah blah, right before they sent you out to cut each other's throats for the all-important victory? Well, this league actually adheres to that healthy notion and was created with the sole intention of providing a relaxed and safe forum for women to play softball and enjoy each other's company regardless of athletic prowess. Winning is not everything, its completely disregarded.

Each team decides its own priorities, some resembling more traditional softball teams, replete with coaches, managers, and more recognizable formal uniforms. Other teams operate as a collective with each woman getting a turn at bat no matter what the score. As Mary Vasquez, a key coordinator of the league for the last four years, explained it, "There seems to be a team to suit every woman's needs." And, from the looks of it, even if there isn't, folks can simply create one, as the league has grown from four to thirteen teams in the last ten years.

They closed their season this June with a tenth anniversary awards ceremony at the Hotel Northampton. The evening reflected the philosophy of the league, for each woman received a purple "Most Valuable Player" ribbon. Ruth Rae, the evenings Mistress of Ceremonies, said "the league was created in part so that women who were denied the chance to play sports as children could learn softball in an atmosphere that would encourage them and honor the athlete in everyone."

The league also received an "Official Resolution from the County Commissioners of Hampshire County." According to Mary Vasquez, another member of the league, Sarah Van Arsdale, knew one could go to the county offices and ask for recognition of your organization; so she, Vasquez, and Peggy Vezina received the award at the Commissioners offices secretly, although Ms. Vasquez was interviewed on a local radio station about it in the wee hours of the morning. "We got a pretty good chuckle out of it," said Ms. Vasquez. Ruth Rae announced it to the rest of the league that night.

The one woman who did receive special recognition, much to her surprise, was Mary Vasquez. She received the Crazy Glue award for managing to keep up on all the new and constantly changing rules, finding umpires, holding team representative meetings at her house every year, and "creating softball fields out of dust."

The awards ceremony lasted only an hour, and the rest of the evening was devoted to dancing. It never seems to be forgotten by the members the good time and energy of this league is founded on the serious commitment to each other and to all women's lives. As Ms. Rae pointed out before the ceremony gave way to some serious boogying, "we want to honor all those women who are not here tonight because they don't know they can play softball, because they haven't found us yet."

*Sarah Bush*

## WOMEN — PLAY BALL! SUMMER SOFTBALL ACTIVITY IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Article by Sarah Bush



Photographs by Sue Tyler

### WORDS WORTH

The Words Worth team was originally started in 1980 and was called the Alternatives, who were a spin-off of the No Nukes team. In 1984 the Words Worth team won only one game all season and was written up in the VWV as the best dressed team in the league, so all was not lost!

### RED SCARE

In the spring of 1982, a group of women formed Red Scare, a team on which sexual orientation was secondary to political vision. Considered by many to be the best-looking team, the presence of heterosexual women has been a great frustration for many a would-be suitor. But let our record speak for itself: we take the league very seriously and, as a result, we are two for five in bringing heterosexual women out.

### VALLEY GIRLS

Fer sure, fer sure, we began in a pasture in '82 when we all ran fast. We cheered "hit a cow in the head" but missed the cow and hit Donna instead. Politics was never our game, you can tell that by our team's name. None of us like to compete, but rather than lose, we'll cheat. All kidding aside, we love to play softball, but don't make us slide. These are the Valley Girl facts...lets drop the cowshit, and PARTY to the max!!

### WATROBA'S\*

Sponsored by Chet Watroba, owner of Watroba's Store in North Amherst, we are brought to you by the once-upon-a-time women's slow-pitch league of the Town of Amherst. Though only a small core of the original team still exists, we are together because we want to play as women, with women, and...just because we want to play. We all agree that every team member is an equal, regardless of skill level; that participation by all is more important than winning the game or having a lot of playing time; and that we are, indeed, "Fun People."

We are grateful to the League for adding us to the group and are looking forward to the rest of, what has been so far, a great season.

WA-WA-WA-WA-TROBAS!

\*Ancient Sanskrit writings reveal that 'watroba' actually means a "fun feminist." Believe it or don't.

### RESISTERS

Being a resister means being a part of laughter, lust, and cheering for those unbelievable plays. Resisters encourage women who have never played softball to play. We support each other in good times and bad, and we really like to watch women learn to play softball. We're a fun bunch of girls and no one can resist us.

*This is only a partial listing of the teams in the Women's Softball League of Western Massachusetts. If you're on a team, write and tell us about your team.*





## Dykes To Watch Out For



### EDITING

The moment that an article passes from the writer's hand to the solicitor's hand is the moment the editor's job begins. The editor, like everyone else, has a certain amount of phone calling to do. It is up to her to arrange an editing meeting at which all women interested in the editing process (including writers and other staff) are welcome. Recently these meetings have been rather long (8-10 hours a month) because those of us on staff believe in collective editing in which all of us have a voice, instead of leaving one woman with both the privilege and the burden of deciding how things will appear in the issue.

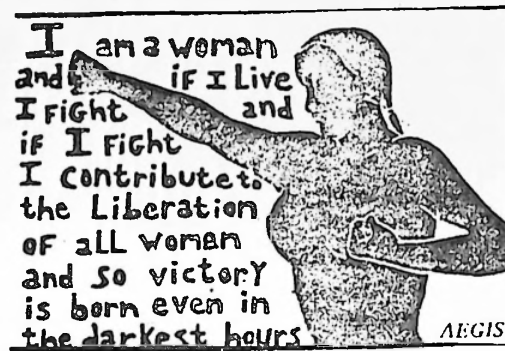
Outside of arranging meetings, the editing coordinator is also responsible for doing some editing and proofreading one-on-one with article writers. In a society where women are generally discouraged from writing, many women are reluctant to surrender their work to an entire group of editors, for fear that it will be torn to shreds. To prevent this from happening, we sometimes set up these one-on-one sessions. At most this would require 3-4 hours a month.

### OFFICE

Like any other operational business or organization, the **Valley Women's Voice** needs office staff. A bare minimum of 12 office hours a week is absolutely necessary; more than that would be an enormous help. During these hours, we need women to answer the phone, to pick up and answer the mail, to answer the questions of women who walk in to the office, to file correspondence and other collectibles, and to do other related work. At this point, we have a large backlog of unanswered, unfilled letters, requests for back issues, and other paperwork to be dealt with. None of this would be very time consuming if it were kept up to date, but this hasn't been the case. Wouldn't you like to be the one to create order and efficiency in our office? Sure you would!

### BOOKKEEPING

Lately, bookkeeping has been one of the most neglected areas in the paper. For the last year or so, it seems that each bookkeeper has just begun to get familiar with the local bureaucracy and catch up on the backlog of accounts, when she's had to leave the area, or graduate and leave the area, or just plain leave the paper. This is a problem. No business can survive without a bookkeeper, and we're no exception. The work involved is nothing too amazing; just mailing out subscriptions, filing and keeping track of purchase orders, making deposits, keeping the ledgers up to date, and keeping track of ads. All of this, we figure, should take about 25 hours a month. That's just over 5 hours a week, and less if you find a friend to do it with you! Better yet, you can get whatever help you need from the Economic Development Office just down the hall. Like us, EDO would like to see the paper survive, so they would be very happy to meet you.



### ADVERTISING

If bookkeeping has been **one** of the most neglected areas of the paper, then advertising definitely takes the prize for **most** neglected. It simply hasn't been done. You can't get much more neglected than that. After all, just think about it. When was the last time a **Valley Women's Voice** rep came knocking at your door? Wouldn't you like to meet one? Why not **be** one? That's right -- you! Come on, you'll get to meet lots of people, and it'll look great on your resume, not to mention the fact that you'll be helping a good cause. In just a few short hours a month, you can help insure the survival of a precious piece of the feminist press! It doesn't involve all too much, just this: a few hours of billing, a few more to call advertisers, and see if they'd like to make any changes in their ads, a couple more to create new ads, and, of course, a few more to show up on people's front doorsteps to convince them that **their** ad should be in the paper. We figure that about 15 hours a month ought to be enough to do it fairly painlessly. What do you say? Give it a try?

### PRODUCTION

This portion of creating the **Valley Women's Voice** takes a large amount of womanpower. In the past, we have had two typesetters who did the majority of the text typing. This takes approximately eighteen hours per month depending upon the skills on the women involved, and is usually done before a 2-day production session.

During "production", several women gather to lay out and put together the paper. Depending on the number of women at production, the process is usually completed in about 17 hours (based on 6 women working varying periods of time). Some typesetting is done during this time as well, but the majority is already done.

Although many women work on production, there are usually 2 production coordinators. However, over the past year, one woman has taken this responsibility. The tasks involved in this aspect are: training new women (5 hours per month), calling women to come to production (3 hours per month), getting the paper to and from the printer, as well as overseeing and coordinating the production process. Ideally all of the women who work on production could take on some tasks, to make this a less painful process.

Production can be fun, and a lot of decisions about how the paper looks and exactly what goes in are made by the production staff. It also gives women a chance to be creative and use their artistic talents! Production is something that every woman with a creative urge should look into for even just a few hours one weekend a month. (We figure this is a pretty good deal, since even the Army Reserve asks for two weekends a month, and we're a lot more fun to be around than they are.)

-Monika G. Scoppa

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# FILM REVIEW: ECSTASY UNLIMITED

Last May about 30 women and men attended a screening of the video "Ecstasy Unlimited: The Interpenetrations of Sex and Capital," sponsored by the Valley Women's Voice. The following is a review of Laura Kipnis' work.

Back in the heyday of the women's movement, it was common to meet as women and rap about life in the office, the classroom, or on the street. Consciousness raising had a political and subversive potential, and these sessions put flesh on feminist theory. They met a need for articulating and exposing silent issues, and brining them into public view. From the CR movement came projects, actions, and theater, distinctive for their explosive parading of "the norm," and for exploring the territory of women's oppression and exploitation.

As part of this probing tradition, Laura Kipnis' video explores mainstream adult sex culture. The video razes through consciousness, a post-feminist exercise in theo-art, with slick technique and state of the art graphics. Kipnis presents the facts: sexual desire is manipulated into exploitable consumer classes. Her tone of analysis is overall comic, and shadows her theory that sexual liberation has sacrificed the privacy of sexual practices by entering public discourse.

Sexuality, she shows us, is absorbed into and manipulated by a marketplace imagination. But Kipnis' politic extends her image critique past advertising, into the news media. She uses satellite photos of military murders and repressions around the globe. She clearly shows how easy it is to find parallels of acceptable domination and submission in images of the cultural mainstream, especially in the realm of sex. There is a power at play which makes acceptable military and leather fashions, and at the same time the continuation of military and state brutality without massive protest.

Kipnis polarizes work and pleasure. The viewer is given images of an assembly line, offset by narrative of sexual identity and pleasure. Then, in a massage parlor, the masseuse tells the client about time-saving methods,

while the client complains about his mechanistic job, all the while a close-circuit camera follows their every move. This discontinuity between image and text is schizophrenic, but effective. We can see the logic wrought between mainstream sexual identities and modern "shop work" for a profit. We are shown, also, the connection between money and power as a sexual turn-on. The advertising industry is dramatized as a man who tries to pay a woman \$100 before he can let her seduce him. "Don't spoil the moment," he says, cutting off her protest with a kiss.

The video is pressed into three divisions, or major intersections, of sex and capital: pornography, advertising, and therapy. This three-way division, however, feels synthetic and although it begins well, leaves the video without much of a conclusion. Exploitation of human choice is obvious in first pornography, and secondly in the media, but the kind of therapy Kipnis shows in the last segment could fit under either sex-work or advertising research. This "pay for your pleasure" ethic makes the industry run and lays the framework for consumer culture. What seems to be free choice is actually regulated and rationalized by supply and demand. Even sex therapy, she implies, will merely adjust you to the culture, because culture is the contact which leads you to what you want: sex.

Surveillance by cameras and plain old paranoia are parodied freely, in almost every scene, as both fantasy and nightmare. The camera, which follows every move, elicits both fear and guilt, releasing the knowledge of what one is doing, a razed consciousness. Kipnis suspects control and regulation by "the powers that be." Everyone is manipulated, from the Sex Workers to the ordinary men and women, from subject to manifest object of desire. In America, the commodity market is adapted to the consumer class, and this class is regulated by the repetition of its image and identity.

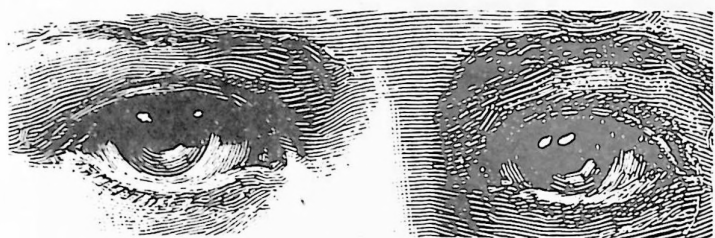
Sexual liberation, Kipnis tells us, created a marketplace. That last "private sphere" no longer needs indirect control. The family's dissolution, the rise of a military state, all could coalesce in the tensions of the bedroom, and be resolved there, without being expressed as public outrage or as reprisal against international "aggressions." These scenarios are flashed as news clips from South Africa, South East Asia, Central America, and the United States. The present acceptability of sex toys,

bondage, and sado-masochism, appear to localize the tensions of desire, and the criticisms of Our Leader's active policies against personal freedom, and the careless manipulation of resources. Kipnis' video sweetly comments, "if you're going to be helpless, why not enjoy it?"

The monster emerging in Kipnis' analysis is the monster of the industry. Is it true, then, that "perversion" is no longer subversion? But Kipnis is paying more attention to the media exploitation of heterosexual identities than to the question of subversion: more to the fear than to the pleasure. Her critique of the sex/work co-optation by the media market is accurate. Her parallels are most effective in terms of "being watched," from market researchers, Masters & Johnson, to the FBI, the CIA, the transit authorities, our own managers, to our own consciousnesses.

So where is the conclusion, the strategy, the point of transition? The possibility of anything? Kipnis, having discarded her place as speaker on the therapist's couch, stays hidden behind her camera and editing board. This forty minute video leaves her analysis completed, her ecstasy unlimited, and the 'state of nature' in id-erotic sexuality fairly well obscured.

- Sue Gilman



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# GROUP RAISES MONEY FOR WOMEN IN NEED

Women's initiative and creativity has demonstrated itself once again with the Moondala new moon coffee house, held at the Wendell Town Hall in Wendell Center. The last such event took place on June seventh, with local women presenting talents in mime, dance, poetry, and improvisational theater. There was a special drama presentation of *Copper Woman*, dedicated to two women in the community: Erica Thorne, who assisted in the choreography of the piece, and Sandra Boston DeSilvia. Sandra is founder of a program for Women Warriors, combining political action, women's creativity, and spirituality for social change in the world. She has been instrumental in the Moondala women's group process, assisting them in structuring a free-flowing communication within their group.

The Moondala group formed several years ago around concerns for women's health issues and has expanded its focus to embrace the care and health of the total self, including the body, mind, heart and spirit. Women in the group have learned to support each other spiritually and emotionally as their awarenesses in these areas have grown. Today the core group of approximately 12 women meets once a month, although the group may number as many as 25 at any given meeting. They are open-ended in terms of how many members can attend each month and periodically open the group to new members.

The Moondala Coffee House was the inspiration of the group as a whole in response to the need women in the group were finding to raise money, enabling them to invite guest speakers to appear at their meetings and to set up workshops that would deal with women's issues. The funds will also help to create a financial fund for

women in the group who may, at a given time, have an emergency financial need.

Filled to capacity, the coffee house served to entertain the community as a whole, raised awareness of women's issues, and acted as a forum for local political activities with time being given to local activists to announce their organizations' next events and upcoming functions. Providing women an opportunity to channel their creativity the new moon coffee house also offered a crafts table for local women to sell their arts as well as homebaked goods.

It is the hope of the Moondala women's group to present the coffee houses on a regular basis at least two times a year. The next one is tentatively planned for Winter Solstice.



continued from page 1

shut down all reproductive health clinics, to prohibit hospitals from performing abortions, no matter how pressing the emergency, and to withhold benefits from hospitals that provide abortion services. It empowers the legislature to regulate clinics and other abortion providers in as burdensome a manner as is possible under federal standards, eliminating any role for our state constitution and state courts as independent arbiters of the rights of Massachusetts citizens.

**The referendum will be on the ballot for the November elections. To get involved in working against this amendment, or for more information, call either Rick Vigeant at 584-8652, or Paula Reed at 253-3397.**

The organizing efforts on the campus of UMass, Amherst around the anti-abortion referendum are as follows: trained speakers giving brief 10 minute talks in classes (Women's Studies, Anthropology, etc.) about the referendum, regular tabling on the campus center concourse, and Dr. Ken Edelin speaking on October 15th at the campus center. Dr. Edelin is speaking about his being accused of murder after performing an abortion. Other activities include: a five-college meeting on the 2nd of October at the UMass campus center (check schedule by the elevator for room), and showing the planned parenthood video, "Personal Choice" on the campus.

At Hampshire college there will be a speak-out of women who have had illegal abortions on October 1st at 7:30 p.m. in West Lecture Hall.

Gina Garro is campus coordinator at UMass for the campaign for Choice. She can be reached at 549-6985.

- Rebecca Thatcher

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**Crystal Visions** by Diane Mariechild The Crossing Press, Trumansburg, NY 1985, \$6.95.

Crystal Visions is a book of 'Nine Meditations for Personal and Planetary Peace.' Through these nine meditations, Diane Mariechild hopes to help readers connect themselves with the external world as well as to achieve inner unity. She advises that readers ponder and repeat her nine meditations as they are meaningful to them--as they address an issue that interests them.

She advises, 'Trust yourself to find the meditation rituals that have meaning for you. Allow yourself to be guided by the inner voice and know that, as you continue your practice, insights will expand and deepen.'

She writes, 'I have chosen the title, *Crystal Visions* to honor the perfection within us all, that we may recognize the power of our thoughts and vision to shape our destiny. The crystal vision is the vision of love that shines forth through all of life...May we live in love, in a world of beauty and harmony.'

.....  
**Not An Easy Choice** by Kathleen McDonnell South End Press, Boston, 1984 \$8.00

If most Americans admit that they support a woman's right to an abortion, why does the controversy still rage? Are there issues that the pro-choice movement hasn't addressed--issues that remain confusing and unresolved for women?

Kathleen McDonnell describes the often conflicting needs and emotions experienced prior to and after abortion. She also unravels the ethical debates surrounding the issue, examines the constituency and strategy of the anti-choice movement and evaluates the arguments regarding men's rights in abortion decisions. McDonnell's feminist exploration places these issues within the context of rapidly changing reproductive technology and the much broader issue of reproductive rights.

--Reprinted from cover

**Fertility and Pregnancy: Guide for DES Daughters and Sons** DES Action National, San Francisco, California, \$6.00

If you are DES exposed--or one of your friends is--you'll be pleased to learn that the first *Fertility and Pregnancy Guide for DES Daughters and Sons* has just been published by the consumer group DES Action National. Young women and men whose mothers took the drug DES during their pregnancies have special health concerns. These include higher risks for infertility for daughters and sons, and, for daughters, miscarriage, tubal pregnancy, and premature delivery. DES Action has combined an extensive reading of the medical literature and personal interviews with DES specialists, to present, in everyday language, answers to the common questions about fertility.

DES was given to between 2 and 4 million pregnant women in the U.S. from 1941 to 1971 (and in some cases after 1971) with the idea that it would prevent miscarriage. In 1971, DES was linked with a rare form of vaginal cancer. The risk for this 'DES cancer' is low. Recent research shows that reproductive problems for DES exposed women and men are much more common. DES Action and the medical world get many questions about these concerns, and now the information is available.

The guide, which has been reviewed for accuracy and clarity by 30 Des physicians, is available from DES Action, 2845-24th St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110. Readers who want more information can also contact the local chapter of DES Action at Box 1043, Northampton, 01061.

**An Emergence of Green** by Katherine V. Forrest The Naiad Press, Inc., Tallahassee, FL; 1986, \$8.95

From the moment she meets Val Hunter, Carolyn Blake's married life begins to unravel until she is torn apart by erotic depths she can neither resist nor control.

Val Hunter, as imposing in physical appearance as she is in artistic talent, no longer willing to deny her submerged individuality or her sexual self, becomes locked in combat with Paul Blake, who fights to save his marriage with every weapon at his command.

.....  
**Sex Variant Women in Literature** by Jeanette H. Foster The Naiad Press Inc., Tallahassee, FL, 1985, \$8.95

It is no exaggeration to say that the student of lesbian life cannot fully understand her own history without reading *Sex Variant Women in Literature* by Jeanette H. Foster.

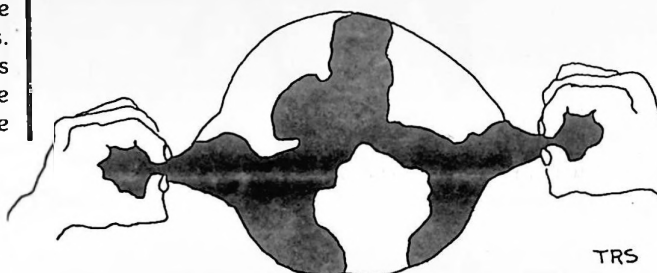
The 2600 years of lesbian history through the pages of the contemporary literature of each era provides a panoramic sweep which establishes for all time the presence of lesbians in world literature from 600 B.C. through the middle of the 20th Century.

A fascinating journey, illuminated by the lives and loves of all manner of famous women. One comes away realizing that it is harder to find a heterosexual writer than a lesbian one...one realizes it with delight, of course. --Reprinted from book.

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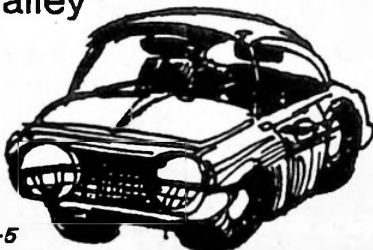
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# CAMBRIDGE POSSIBLE BREAK-INS ANYWHERE

It's a nightmare from which almost every activist suffers. Clicks on the telephone, already opened mail, materials missing from offices, and odd, unfamiliar faces at meetings. Things we all worry about. Often it is mere paranoia, but there are other times when the suspicion that someone is watching and listening, gathering information, turns out to be very real. Although it has been a while since the FBI has come knocking on activist's doors in the Pioneer Valley, many Cambridge organizations have been a good deal less fortunate.

Over the weekend of June seventh to ninth, seven offices in the basement of the Old Cambridge Baptist Church were broken into for the seventh time since November of 1984. The Old Cambridge Baptist Church is certainly not the only establishment to suffer from these invasions—many other sanctuary churches nationwide have also been raided—but break-ins at the OCBC have been unusually frequent. Five of the seven offices broken into house Central America related organizations. The Central America Information Office (CAMINO), the Central American Solidarity Association (CASA), New England Central American Network (NECAN), New Institute of Central America (NICA), and the OCBC office which helps coordinate sanctuary activities.

The other two offices were the Cambridge Tenants Union and the Children's Co-op Daycare Center.

As in six previous break-ins, valuable office equipment was left behind, while file cabinet drawers and mail were opened and examined. Almost every office was ransacked, and every office door was either completely

destroyed or torn off its hinges. In the Co-op Daycare office, staff payroll records were stolen. Overall, two phone answering machines, a small tape player, a pocket calculator, a roll of stamps, and a small amount of petty cash were taken.

Although a spokesman for the FBI denied FBI involvement in the break-ins, in a telephone interview, office workers thought differently. Ann Salmeron, staff coordinator for CASA, said "if I were to guess (who broke in,) I would say it was the FBI. It seems similar to harassment techniques used against anti-war groups in the 60's."

Although the FBI refuses to investigate the burglaries, community pressure has forced state and local police to increase their efforts to find suspects, and has convinced them to consider these events as continuous harassment rather than isolated cases of breaking and entering.

Around 400 people attended a rally on June 26 in support of the seven organizations. There is an ongoing campaign to force the FBI to open its files on the OCBC and the organizations it houses. For the sake of all those involved in struggles against oppression, supporters should demand the release of these files in letters to William Webster, FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover Building Washington D. C. 20535. For further information about break-ins nationally, contact the Center for Constitutional Rights, 666 Broadway, Seventh Floor, New York N.Y. 10012, or the OCBC, 1151 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139.

While things may seem calm here in the Pioneer Valley for the moment, there's no way of knowing who is next in line, and not one of us is safe until we all are safe.

-Monika Giacoppe

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I decided to get to as many workshops as I could but to include ones that I was most interested in learning about. One such workshop was for mothers of teenage children. Just to meet other moms and to listen to one another opened up a lot for many women. Many had questions about how to deal with issues such as coming out to their children, dealing with their guilt about being different and simply learning that many of the problems that they face are problems that ALL women face as parents of teenagers and not necessarily germane to their sexual preference. This was clearly a relief for some women there. We wanted to network with one another, to talk, to hear successes, and we did.

The single mother workshop facilitators posed the question: Why does anybody want a baby? and told their stories. They shared their realizations since becoming mothers. They discussed the issues of politics, the difficulty of it, and the joy as well. Issues such as rivalry, competition, draining, and the involvement one needs to be ready to deal with being a parent, were also dealt with, as was the necessity of community support.

Mothers of sons were relieved to find a place where it was okay to be and to talk. They discussed issues like how to change stereotypes, how to find ways for their sons to maintain their introspective selves, their sensitivity, and also maintain their maleness and dignity. What is maleness? People weren't sure, given patriarchy, and agonized about this issue. These mothers spoke of their awareness of the difficulty these sons have in the world and began voicing their concerns about what to do.

They were concerned for themselves and they were concerned for their sons. How to teach their sons to be responsible human beings, to have feelings and to express them, how not to dump on women or make us responsible for them. They spoke of how difficult a task this is in this culture. One woman shared her gratefulness to her parents for having given her "the rules" for being different as she and her siblings were raised. She hoped that she was managing to do this with her own children.

I talked with two girl children, ages nine and ten, and three boy children, one nine, and the others thirteen. It was a treat. All said they felt that their mother's choice was her own and their only misgiving was that the world at large didn't see it as okay. They shared experiences of having told friends and learning how troublesome it sometimes is to tell anyone. They have learned to think carefully about who it makes sense to tell, and who it doesn't. When asked if they wished it were different, one boy child shrugged his shoulders, and another quietly said, "No, my mom is who she is," and the others agreed. They love their moms and who they choose to

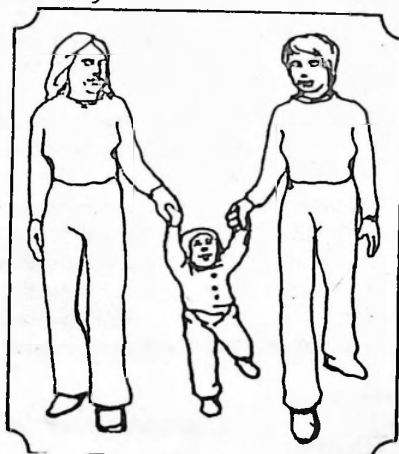
love is their own business. Before the workshop ended, they made a list of pros and cons about the best and worst things about having a mom who is a lesbian:

## BEST

Lots of love  
I like Barb  
I can talk with Mary if I disagree with Mom  
I have an adult friend  
It's ok to have different opinions  
I have two other brothers

## WORST

Being bossed by mom's lover  
Can't tell the truth about home at school  
Can't spend a lot of time with father  
Having to choose between Mary's and mom's ideas  
I can't have gum  
Can't go many places because mom's lover doesn't like to fly



The range of thinking in the grandmother's workshop covered how they hoped the new concept of lesbians having children was not an imitation of what they did; to buy into the system because of the wave of conservatism sweeping the country. They wondered if lesbians were trying to find stability and continuity of relationship by deciding to form "families" and preserve relationships with children as heterosexual couples have done, or were lesbians really finding new ways and creating new

continued from page 6

AIDS is a Lesbian concern because we are the powerful healers and caregivers and the creators and protectors of life and healing is needed more than ever right now. We need not be caregivers for any other reason than for ourselves...for our Lesbian selves first of all...for the preservation of the quality of life on this planet and especially for our own health and the health of our peoples. Would it be a surprise if the cure for AIDS was not a chemical, a vaccine, but a new way of living and loving in respect for every living being? Caring for our community means each of us starting with ourselves and caring for ourselves and our movement first of all.

How are you caring for yourself? How are you caring for our Lesbian and Gay communities? What Lesbian or Gay political group have you joined? What Senators or Congress members have you pressured for money against AIDS? What Lesbian or Gay support group have you started? Which Lesbian or Gay fundraiser have you collected money at? Which Lesbian or Gay crisis line or archive or project or business do you support? Which Lesbian or Gay issue have you written a paper for college about? Which Lesbian or Gay spiritual circle do you sit in and worship in? There are hundreds of ways to care for our communities in the face of AIDS and the epidemic of straight ignorance and fear.

And if you are straight, how are you caring for Lesbians and Gay men? How many letters have you written demanding from your elected representatives sizeable government money against AIDS? How many fights have you waged alongside Lesbians and Gay men for Gay civil rights? Gay people are dying. What are you doing to counteract the inhumanity of heterosexist inaction and blame in the face of the loss of human lives?

We Lesbians and Gay men are a magical, love-centered people. Fairies and Faggots, Witches and Medicine Men, Shamans and Amazons, Queens and Queers, Butches and Bulldykes and Lezzie Fems. We are a beautiful, creative people whose lifestyle more than any other is a path of shining bravery and love. Through times of great historical devastation in places like concentration camps, foxholes, mental hospitals and prisons, or on the streets feeling the daily violence of queer baiting, we have looked death meant especially for Gay people in the face, and we have travelled right on through. By loving our lives, our Lesbianism and our Gayness deep inside our bodies and souls, by caring for our community, we can turn even death around.

-Bet Birdfish

forms by consciously deciding to be mothers and maintain the many roles women can have in society as well as being mothers of children; not just mothers of children. One of the women in this workshop told of how she and her lover had six biological children between them, all of whom have chosen not to have children. Both women want grandchildren. They placed an advertisement in Gay Community News which was answered by two women who are expecting in about six to eight weeks. Both sets of parents have rejected them and their concept of family. These grandmothers and mothers met and the grandmothers are planning to be at the birth. They are getting to know one another are in the initial stages of bonding with one another. Not clear on what their role(s) are to be or what they want them to be, all are continuing to talk, explore, discuss and evolve a new form, a chosen family unit. They all anxiously await this chosen child.

"What new institutions can we create to nurture children of lesbians and what community rituals can we create to pass feminist values?" asked Cindi Rizzo.

We are finding options, finding family, finding new ways to make the reality we want in our lives be what we want it to be. We are not accepting anything less for our children.

Who said we can't?  
Watch us.

Christine Ratzel is a lesbian feminist and mother of two teenagers. She has taught empowerment workshops for women, is interested in doing workshops for lesbian mothers and their children and would like to write a book about children raised by lesbians someday. Interested children and mothers may contact her by writing:

Christine Ratzel  
P.O. Box 267  
Amherst, Ma. 01004

# SM LESBIANS NEED TO AIR ISSUES

For the past five years, SM Lesbians have been growing in power, pride visibility and numbers in Massachusetts and are now particularly well-organized in two Massachusetts cities: Boston and Northampton. Boston led the state's 1980s "Leather coming-out party" with a short-lived Lesbian SM Support Group which was quickly replaced by Urania, a well-attended Lesbian and bisexual women's SM support group. The SM Lesbian network expanded in size while it expanded the limits of some non-SM Lesbians at each New England Women's Musical Retreat (NEWMR). There, Massachusetts leather met lace, and vice versa, across state lines as they networked with SM women from New York, Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island and beyond.

Wanting all the power and glory to be more conveniently located in my own Northampton backyard (and tired of wracking up mileage on my devoted Prelude from explorations into Boston and New York City), in 1983 I founded SHELIX, a Northampton-area Lesbian SM support group. I've been butch since birth and an "out" Lesbian since 1970. It was about time for my top to get to the bottom of the matter and come all the way out of the sexual preference closet. SHELIX now supports SM dykes in Western and Central Massachusetts. Boston and New York Lesbians sometimes also attend. Since 1977, I have also lived with a directed the New Alexandria Lesbian Library, a 12-year-old national collection of Lesbian herstory. The archives has been built by hundreds of Lesbians and has been visited by hundreds of Lesbians more.

It wasn't until late 1985 that I felt any pressure from Lesbians to split myself into two people along sexual preference lines. Nor, until then was I asked to leave my SM self at the door in certain situations. Up until then the director of a national Lesbian archives coexisted just fine with the founder of an SM Lesbian support organization. Sure, I was aware of some tense reactions in New England by some feminists against SM dykes. The Cambridge Women's Center had denied meeting space to Urania and NEWMR inked out SM activities from one year's festival program guide. But Lesbians working in Lesbian or Gay groups and publications were pretty much living and letting SM Lesbians live.

Publications like *Gay Community News*, *Bay Windows*, *The Valley Gay Alliance Gaysette*, as well as the *Valley Women's Voice* and *Women In Hartford* newsletter all included news about SM Lesbians. My priority "must read first" publications became pro-sexuality magazines: *Bad Attitude* and *Outrageous Women*, both Boston-based. On a personal level, no Lesbians had as yet attempted to censor my Lesbian SM self while applauding my "movement Lesbian" political activist self.

I am displeased to report that recently there have been attempts in Western Massachusetts by Lesbians to censor Lesbians. Some aggravating vanilla Lesbian behavior in Springfield has non-consensually attempted to put reins on the unabashed wildfire prancings of SM Lesbians statewide and beyond. Here's what's happened the past several months:

In December 1985, an announcement about the "Bad Girl Revue," New England's first Lesbian strip show by and for Lesbians (produced in Boston by non-SM and SM Lesbians alike and attended by over 150 Dykes) was given to the Lesbian Organization of Greater Springfield (LOGS) Newsletter for publication. The members of this scarcely year-old cultural/social organization decided not to censor the announcement. They did not notify anyone directly involved with producing "Bad Girl Revue" of the censorship.

In February 1986, SHELIX sent an outreach announcement about our monthly discussion meetings to the LOGS newsletter for publication. LOGS members voted to censor the announcement and silence any news about SHELIX. No one in SHELIX was formally contacted

about the censorship. At this time LOGS also voted to censor from its newsletter any forthcoming news/information from any Lesbian SM group or event. I learned of the SM-phobic policy informally through a LOGS newsletter editor who is in disagreement with the vote. It is not clear how many LOGS members voted for or against the censorship.

Up until this time, the New Alexandria Lesbian Library has been sending the LOGS newsletter announcements about Library events and community volunteer days. We were pleased to see a young new organization emerge in Springfield for Lesbians. Events at the Library House in Northampton subsequently became well-attended by Springfield dykes.

It was at this point that I felt conflicting messages aimed at my Lesbian activities. Some of the same Lesbians who benefited from events at the Library, housed in my home, were attempting to erase from Lesbian view the activities of SHELIX, which also sometimes meets in my home. In March, the New Alexandria Lesbian Library sent a letter to the LOGS newsletter withdrawing any future NALL news from publication there. This was done to protest the exclusion of SM Lesbian news by LOGS and to state that LOGS' censorship policy is incompatible with the values of the Library, which serves all Lesbians. NALL's disassociation from LOGS will continue until such time the Springfield group decides to publish the news of each and every one of us Lesbians. LOGS has not responded to the Library's letter nor has it printed it, as requested, in Letters to the Editor. LOGS did make a brief statement in one of its newsletters that SM Lesbian news is being officially excluded. Letters of protest sent to the newsletter by Lesbians have been carelessly or rudely ignored and no news at all about community responses to the censorship policy has appeared in the newsletter.

On May 10, SHELIX members attended in group (and in full leather) a LOGS benefit dance held in Springfield at the Frontier bar. We handed out protest flyers to inform the general Lesbian community about the censorship and to request support for reversing the policy. FLOWER, a Lesbian grant-giving group based in Northampton, had sponsored the LOGS benefit dance. A FLOWER representative responded to the situation that night with an announcement that FLOWER is anti-censorship and supports all Lesbians, including SM Lesbians.

On May 14, the acting editor of the LOGS newsletter invited SHELIX to debate the censorship with LOGS at the June LOGS general membership meeting. On May 15, SHELIX agreed to the discussion. On May 17, LOGS withdrew the invitation, saying "we don't want to fight with you." (Just a tad SM-phobic?) Apparently, the LOGS editor (who is SM-supportive) could not persuade the LOGS general membership to air the issues at all.

As of late June, SM Lesbians and supporters have been what appears to be deliberately silenced and allowed no discussion with LOGS about their irresponsible, unethical decisions and actions. I am appalled not only as an SM Lesbian but also as a "movement Lesbian." LOGS has impacted negatively on the lives of all Lesbians by choosing to oppress and stifle the efforts for freedom of some Lesbians. They have bought the patriarchal imperative of sexual hierarchy: that some forms of sex are "better" than others. LOGS censorship actions are thus deplorable: they have decided to act as an oppressor within our own variously oppressed Lesbian communities in Springfield, Western Massachusetts, and beyond.

SM Lesbians are here to stay. And whether some naive Lesbians in Springfield know it or not, we've been the movers and shakers of many Lesbian projects, organizations, and enterprises for years. Only now we're saying we like SM sex and butch-fem sex, out loud and proud.

Help keep our Lesbian communities united rather than divided by difference once more. Write to the LOGS newsletter to get the censorship policy reversed:

LOGS Newsletter  
P.O. Box 1014  
Springfield, MA 01101

You may also write for more information to:  
SHELIX  
P.O. Box 416  
Florence Station  
Northampton, MA 01060

New Alexandria Lesbian Library  
P.O. Box 402  
Florence Station  
Northampton, MA. 01060

As for me this summer, I'll be in the chaise lounge reading hot Lesbian magazines which nurture Lesbian liberties...while some lovely Lesbian lady polishes up my Prelude.

\*Lesbians whose sexual preferences include consensual exchanges of power and trust (sadism and masochism, or pleasure and pain) for mutual sexual, emotional, psychological, and spiritual empowerment. SM is performed within a wide spectrum of intensities (from "light" to "heavy") and often includes sexual dominance/submission, erotic bondage and discipline, and a variety of other specialized sexual activities.

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Valley Women's Voice*.



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## REFERENDUM UPDATE

In order to compensate for the funding that the SGA would not provide, child care advocates organized a petition drive for a referendum, so that all University could vote on an optional \$1 fee that would help fund child care on campus. To establish the referendum, 1,800 signatures were needed; 2,800 were collected by the child care group, demonstrating student support for the referendum.

There is an effort by some students to stop the referendum. Members of the SGA have stopped referendums in the past by preventing a referendum date within the 3 week deadline of receiving the petition signatures. Once the deadline passes the signatures are void. Another tactic presently being used to confuse students, is the addition of individual check-offs for funding of 74 other student groups to appear on the child care referendum and fee bill. The referendum advocates will be involved in educating students about the tactics being used to block it.



# Announcements

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As of August 3, 1986 the LOGS collective voted to dissolve the Lesbian Organization of Greater Springfield. Funds left after reimbursement were donated to FLOWER. Thank you for your support over this past year.

**PROTEST PLANNED AGAINST ABC SERIES "AMERIKA":** ABC is planning to air a 12-hour mini-series called AMERIKA, depicting life in a small Mid-Western town 10 years after a Soviet takeover. The action indicates the "non-lethal" use of nuclear weapons, and uses Central America as the back door to the communist invasion.

Because we feel the premises that the script is based on are inaccurate and inflammatory, we are circulating a petition urging ABC to grant equal time to opposing viewpoints. We urge you to write ABC demanding balanced programming: Brandon Stoddard, President, ABC Entertainment, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90035 and/or ABC Public Relations, 1330 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY 10019. Contact AFSC at 584-8975

**SUSAN TRILO AVAILABLE TO SPEAK ON CENTRAL AMERICA:** Susan is back from a fact-finding mission to El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua sponsored by the Vermont Peace Coalition. She is willing to show a variety of slides from refugee camps to the beauty of Central America's people and land. She has audio tapes of most of the meetings, in Spanish, with English translation. Anyone interested may call her at 665-8246.

## **WATERCOLOR: CONSIDERING COMPOSITION**

An exhibit including works by Rachel Folsom, Alix Hegeler, Elice D. Pieropan, Renee Rubin, Sarah Sutro, and John Tomasetti at the Artspace Gallery at the Arts Council in Greenfield, sponsored by the Arts Council of Franklin County. Reception on Friday, October 10, 7-9 p.m.

Weekend retreat for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Educators on December 6-7 at the Woolman Hill Conference Center, Deerfield, MA. This weekend retreat is a rare opportunity for lesbian, gay and bisexual educators to articulate our unique circumstances, viewpoints, concerns and successes. For more info call 256-6902.

## **MATRIX**

MATRIX is an organization whose goals are to create an environment for vacation, health, education, celebration of life and rites of passage, culture and retirement living for lesbians. At this point, MATRIX is primarily a fund-raising project designed to purchase land suitable for this purpose. Although the development of this project may take years, the organization is committed to work on cultural and spiritual activities in the interim. MATRIX is looking for women of all ages, colors, ethnic and spiritual backgrounds to achieve these goals. The lending of energy, skills and money is vital.

The first year of development is crucial, and we will need women like you to come forward. If you believe you can fulfill our initial expectations of commitment and responsibility, by all means, take the time to write your name and address and note your area of interest, and submit no more than a one-page personal profile. Our committee will contact you soon for a personal or phone interview. We're looking for women of all ages and all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

**MATRIX**  
P.O. Box 771  
Madison Square Station  
New York, N.Y. 10159

Join in! The founding of MATRIX will be an experience you will never forget. (Newsletter)

**SEVENTH ANNUAL WOMEN AND BUSINESS CONFERENCE:** November 8, Elms College, Chicopee, starting at 8 a.m. Registrants may choose from sixteen workshops and panels. For more info call 545-0475.

**THE BRIGHTSIDE FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN** in West Springfield is forming a new support group on single parenting. Advance registration is required. Sliding scale fees will be determined on an individual basis. Contact Elyse Prack at 788-7366.

**WOMEN WANTED FOR CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE TO NICARAGUA:** Builders, masons, carpenters, electricians; skilled and unskilled women. Fund raising and organizing is ongoing. Call immediately: Sandy at 584-4969 or Bonnie at 586-7094 or 586-1125.

# Calendar

## **WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1**

Isabel Morel Letelier will speak on "Third World Women and the Global Struggle for Human Rights" at Smith College in McConnell 103 at 8:00 p.m. Sponsored by P.A.W.S.S., EWC, Hampshire college's Whole Women's Center, Feminist Studies, and more.

## **SUNDAY OCTOBER 5**

Anti-Apartheid Rally, Court Square, Springfield, Ma. March at 1:00, Rally at 2:00. March begins at Winchester Square and goes to City Hall for Rally. Speakers are Naomi Tutu, daughter of Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu and Maki Mandela, daughter of ANC leader Nelson Mandela. Sponsored by the Anti-Apartheid Mobilization Committee.

## **SATURDAY OCTOBER 11**

Women's Dance at the Northampton Center for the Arts. Beginning at 8:30 p.m., the dance benefits a construction brigade to Nicaragua. The D.J. is Mary V. and there will be a name-the-brigade contest. For more information on the brigade or the dance contact Sandy Goodman at 584-4969 or Bonnie at 586-7094.

## **FRIDAY OCTOBER 17**

Beatrice Manz, professor of anthropology at Wellesley College, will speak on the current situation in Guatemala and her field research there. Afternoon at UMass and evening in Northampton. Call AFSC for time and place, 584-8975.

## **FRIDAY OCTOBER 17**

Hunter Davis performs at Rachel's Restaurant, 122 North St. Rte. 7, Pittsfield. Show begins at 8:00 p.m. Tickets available at Good Goods bookstore in Pittsfield.

## **SATURDAY OCTOBER 25**

Walk for Peace and Justice in Northampton. Sponsored by AFSC's Disarmament Working Group. Participants and sponsors needed. Call AFSC at 584-8975 for more information.

## **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22**

Lesbian Convergence in Hartford, Conn. The Hartford Women's Center is holding this day-long series of workshops from 9 a.m. to midnight at 50 Bloomfield Ave. Some of the workshops include: Nonpolitical lesbians, Women and Power, Couples, Lesbians and Children and Legal Issues, Singles, Women of Color, Lesbians in the Workplace, Aging Women, and many more. For questions, call Beth at 203-646-6200 (work) or 203-659-3670 (before 9:30).



## Classifieds

Large, exceptional work space for rent to carpenter, cabinet maker, artist, etc. Accessible and well equipped. \$200/mo. Ashfield 628-4703

I have articles and information packets available for free, on the following subjects: sexual malpractice by psychotherapists, incest, alcoholism, co-alcoholism, feminist therapy.

Contact Kathleen M. Kelley, LICSW  
RRI Box 241  
Williamsburg, Ma. 01096  
628-4703

Be sure to specify the topic you're interested in.

Black leather jacket-Fairly small, almost new, custom made, cold weather removable lining / \$150-200 / 628-4709

**SOCIAL ISSUES COUNSELING**  
Work through issues of class and money, racism, sexism, anti-Semitism or heterosexism. Experienced, supportive, effective. Dr. Joan Lester, Equity Institute, Inc. Amherst. 256-6902

## **WOMEN WORKING FILM SERIES**

### **OCTOBER 16 WHO REMEMBERS MAMA?**

This film explores the plight of the divorced, middle-aged homemaker in our society

### **OCTOBER 23 HIRED HANDS WOMEN OF STEEL**

All women production team takes a penetrating look at sex role stereotyping.

## **WOMEN'S CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE TO NICARAGUA**

Builders, masons, carpenters; skilled and unskilled women wanted for a brigade that will be

Women steelworkers discuss experience in non-traditional jobs.

### **OCTOBER 30 GLOBAL ASSEMBLY LINE**

Documentary filmed in electronics and garment factories, homes, and communities of the U.S., Mexico's northern border, and the Phillipines.

Sponsored by Everywoman's Center, the Labor Relations Center, Women's Studies, and the Department of Economics

in Nicaragua in the summer of 1987. Organizers are needed immediately to begin the groundwork for the brigade. Fundraising and other planning is in the process. Call Sandy at 584-4969 or Bonnie at 586-7094.

## Everywoman's Center

The Graduate WAGES (Women's Admission and General Educational Support) Program provides services to graduate women, including workshops, a newsletter, academic counseling, support group participation and networking.

Other workshops offered this semester by Graduate WAGES include: a self-defense workshop on October 15; a workshop on time and stress management on November 7; a resume-writing and job-interviewing skills workshop on November 13 and a two-session workshop on self-esteem on November 17 and 24.

Everywomen's Center is currently seeking interns and volunteers for fall. Women interested in developing skills in Resource/Referral, Budget, Against Violence Against Women, Public Relations, Women's Educational Support or Third World Women's Programs should call 545-0883 or stop by. Training and internship credit are offered through the University and area colleges. Applications are available at Wilder Hall at UMass. EWC is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 until 4 and Wednesday from noon until 7.

Valley Women's  
Voice  
Needs Your  
Help?

Attend A  
planning meeting  
TUESDAY  
OCTOBER 14  
7:00 P.M.  
CAMPUS CENTER